

SOUR LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL CONTACT REPORT (2020)





SOUR LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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SOUR LAKE, TX. 77659
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2020 Racial Profiling Statistical Analysis Compared to Gender and Ethnic Population

According to a City-Data.com analysis, the City of Sour Lake has a population of approximately 1,854.

Said population being comprised of the following by sex: 943 males (50.9%), 911 females (49.1%)

This population is further broken down by race as follows:

White- 1,630 (89.9%)

Hispanic- 92 (5.1%)

Black- 42 (2.3%)

Two or More Races- 24 (1.3%)

Asian- 16 (.9%)

American Indian- 8 (.4%)

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander- 1 (.06%)

These figures are consistent with 2010 Census Data and the known population for the City of Sour Lake.

Total Traffic Stops 2020

1328

Traffic Stop Summary Percentages by Sex

Female- (477) 35.92%

Male- (851) 64.08%

Traffic Stop Summary Percentages by Race

Black- (164) 12.34%

Asian/Pacific Islander- (33) 2.49%

White- (967) 72.82%

Hispanic/Latino- (164) 12.35%

Alaska Native/American Indian- (0) 0%

As part of SB 1849, the Sandra Bland Act, signed into effect by Governor Abbott on 6/15/2017, changes were made to the racial profiling reports. The bill stated that there will be no more partial exemptions for agencies using video equipment to record their traffic stops. All agencies that are subject to reporting requirements will now have to submit a full racial profiling report. Because of this, the criteria and collection of data gathered is different from previous years. The Sour Lake Police Department has instituted a Racial Profiling Policy as required by the State of Texas since 2001. Current policy conforms to new requirements set forth by the State.

The following was found during the collection of data:

- Males accounted for approximately 64.08 % of traffic stops in the city with females accounting for approximately 35.92%.
- Approximately 72.82% of traffic stops were White, approximately 12.34% were Black, approximately 12.35% were Hispanic/Latino, and approximately 2.49% were Asian/Pacific Islander.
- The majority reason for traffic stops in the city were for moving traffic violations at approximately 90.89%. This consists of speeding and other moving violations, followed by vehicle traffic violations at approximately 7.0%. This consists of expired motor vehicle registration or defective equipment violations, followed by violations of other laws, 1.5%, and pre-existing knowledge, making up the last .6%.
- Approximately 93.07% of these traffic stops occurred on State Highways within the city. The other approximately 6.92% occurred on city streets or local roads.
- Out of all traffic stops in the city, approximately 3.31% involved a search.
- Out of these searches, approximately 27.27% of these were consensual, approximately 54.55% were probable cause searches, approximately 6.82% were conducted during an inventory, approximately 9.09% were conducted incident to arrest, and approximately 2.27% were conducted because of contraband being in plain view.
- Contraband was discovered in approximately 47.42% of these searches with the data showing that the majority of contraband found, approximately 40.9% were drugs or drug paraphernalia.
- Approximately 71.46% of traffic stops resulted in citations, approximately 27.48% resulted in written warnings, approximately .9% resulted in citation accompanied by an arrest, and approximately .15% resulted in an a warning accompanied by an arrest.
- Physical force resulting in bodily injury was not used during any traffic stop.

Of Black/African American searched there was a total of 9, which is equal to approximately 5.36% of the group that was stopped. Of these 9, all were males. 8 searches were based off of Probable Cause and 1 search was based off of Plain View. Contraband was found in 5 searches being 5 w/Drugs, 1 w/Weapons, and 1 w/Alcohol.

Of Hispanic/Latino searched there was a total of 4, which is equal to approximately 2.42% of the group that was stopped. Of these 4, all were males. 2 searches were based off of Consent and 2 searches were based off of probable cause. No contraband was found.

Of White searched there was a total of 31 which is equal to approximately 3.21% of the group that was stopped. Of these 33, 25 were males and 6 were females. 10 searches were based off of Consent, 14 searches were based off of Probable Cause, 4 searches were based off of Incident to Arrest, and 3 searches were based off of Inventory. Contraband was found in 29 searches being 22 w/Drugs, 2 w/Weapons, 5 w/Alcohol.

Searches were not conducted on any Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or Alaskan Native/American Indian.

There were no complaints filed with the Sour Lake Police Department alleging that a Peace Officer employed by the agency has engaged in Racial Profiling.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Burleson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aaron Burleson
Chief of Police

2020 Racial Profiling Report / Full Report

Agency Name: Sour Lake Police Department

Reporting Date: 1/20/2021

TCOLE Agency Number: 199204

Chief Administrator: Aaron Burleson

Agency Contact Information: Chief Aaron Burleson

Phone: (409) 287-3574

Email: chief301@cityofsourlake.com

Mailing Address: 625 Hwy 105 W. Sour Lake, TX 77659

This Agency filed a full report

The Sour Lake Police Department has adopted a detailed written policy on racial profiling. Our policy:

- 1) clearly defines acts constituting racial profiling;
- 2) strictly prohibits peace officers employed by the Sour Lake Police Department from engaging in racial profiling;
- 3) implements a process by which an individual may file a complaint with the supervisor or Chief Administrator if the individual believes that a peace officer employed by the Sour Lake Police Department has engaged in racial profiling with respect to the individual;
- 4) provides public education relating to the agency's complaint process;
- 5) requires appropriate corrective action to be taken against a peace officer employed by the Sour Lake Police Department who, after an investigation, is shown to have engaged in racial profiling in violation of the Bias Based Policing policy;
- 6) requires collection of information relating to motor vehicle stops in which a citation is issued and to arrests made as a result of those stops, including information relating to:
 - a. the race or ethnicity of the individual detained;
 - b. whether a search was conducted and, if so, whether the individual detained consented to the search;
 - c. whether the peace officer knew the race or ethnicity of the individual detained before detaining that individual;
 - d. whether the peace officer used physical force that resulted in bodily injury during the stop;
 - e. the location of the stop;

f. the reason for the stop.

7) requires the chief administrator of the agency, regardless of whether the administrator is elected, employed, or appointed, to submit an annual report of the information collected under Subdivision (6) to:

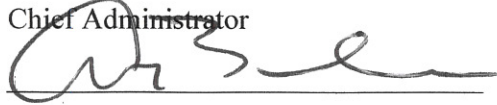
a. the Commission on Law Enforcement; and

b. the governing body of each county or municipality served by the agency, if the agency is an agency of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state.

The Sour Lake Police Department has satisfied the statutory data audit requirements as prescribed in Article 2.133(c), Code of Criminal Procedure during the reporting period.

Executed by: Arzon Burleson

Chief Administrator



Date: 01-20-2021

Motor Vehicle Racial Profiling Information

Total stops: 1328

Street address or approximate location of the stop

City street: 92

US highway: 0

State highway: 1236

County road: 0

Private property or other: 0

Was race or ethnicity known prior to stop?

Yes: 21

No: 1307

Race or ethnicity

Alaska Native/American Indian: 0

Asian/Pacific Islander: 33

Black: 164

White: 967

Hispanic/Latino: 164

Gender

Female:

Total: 477

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 7 Black 59

White 383 Hispanic/Latino 28

Male:

Total: 851

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 23 Black 105

White 586 Hispanic/Latino 137

Reason for stop?

Violation of law:

Total 20

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 1

White 17 Hispanic/Latino 2

Pre existing knowledge:

Total 8

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 0

White 8 Hispanic/Latino 0

Moving traffic violation:

Total 1207

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 32 Black 156

White 861 Hispanic/Latino 158

Vehicle traffic violation:

Total 93

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 7

White 82 Hispanic/Latino 4

Was a search conducted?

Yes:

Total 44

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 9

White 31 Hispanic/Latino 4

No:

Total 1284

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 33 Black 155

White 935 Hispanic/Latino 161

Reason for Search?

Consent:

Total 12

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 0

White 10 Hispanic/Latino 2

Contraband in Plain View:

Total 1

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 1

White 0 Hispanic/Latino 0

Probable cause:

Total 24

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 8

White 14 Hispanic/Latino 2

Inventory:

Total 3

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 0

White 3 Hispanic/Latino 0

Incident to arrest:

Total 4

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 0

White 4 Hispanic/Latino 0

Was Contraband discovered?

Yes:

Total 21

Did the finding result in arrest (total should equal previous column)?

Alaska Native/American Indian Yes 0 No 0

Asian/Pacific Islander Yes 0 No 0

Black Yes 1 No 4

White Yes 3 No 13

Hispanic/Latino Yes 0 No 0

No:

Total 23

Alaska Native/American Indian 0

Asian/Pacific Islander 0

Black 4

White 15

Hispanic/Latino 4

Description of contraband

Drugs:

Total 18

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 4

White 14 Hispanic/Latino 0

Currency:

Total 0

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 0

White 0 Hispanic/Latino 0

Weapons:

Total 2

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 1

White 1 Hispanic/Latino 0

Alcohol:

Total 3

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 1

White 2 Hispanic/Latino 0

Stolen property:

Total 0

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 0

White 0 Hispanic/Latino 0

Other:

Total 0

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 0

White 0 Hispanic/Latino 0

Result of the stop

Verbal warning:

Total 0

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 0

White 0 Hispanic/Latino 0

Written warning:

Total 365

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 11 Black 49

White 285 Hispanic/Latino 20

Citation:

Total 949

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 21 Black 114

White 670 Hispanic/Latino 144

Written warning and arrest:

Total 2

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 0

White 2 Hispanic/Latino 0

Citation and arrest:

Total 12

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 1

White 11 Hispanic/Latino 0

Arrest:

Total 0

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 0

White 0 Hispanic/Latino 0

Arrest based on Violation of Penal Code:

Total 5

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 1

White 4 Hispanic/Latino 0

Violation of Traffic Law:

Total 0

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 0

White 0 Hispanic/Latino 0

Violation of City Ordinance:

Total 0

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 0

White 0 Hispanic/Latino 0

Outstanding Warrant:

Total 9

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 0

White 9 Hispanic/Latino 0

Was physical force resulting in bodily injury used during stop

Yes:

Total 0

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 0 Black 0

White 0 Hispanic/Latino 0

No:

Total 1328

Alaska Native/American Indian 0 Asian/Pacific Islander 33 Black 164

White 966 Hispanic/Latino 165

Number of complaints of racial profiling

Total 0

Resulted in disciplinary action 0

Did not result in disciplinary action 0

	SOUR LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT	
	Policy 2.2 Bias Based Policing	
	Effective Date:	Replaces:
	Approved: _____ Chief of Police	
	Reference: TBP 2.01	

I. POLICY

We are committed to a respect for constitutional rights in the performance of our duties. Our success is based on the respect we give to our communities, and the respect members of the community observe toward law enforcement. To this end, we shall exercise our sworn duties, responsibilities, and obligations in a manner that does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, age, or religion. Respect for diversity and equitable enforcement of the law are essential to our mission.

All enforcement actions shall be based on the standards of reasonable suspicion or probable cause as required by the Fourth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution and by statutory authority. In all enforcement decisions, officers shall be able to articulate specific facts, circumstances, and conclusions that support probable cause or reasonable suspicion for arrests, searches, seizures, and stops of individuals. Officers shall not stop, detain, arrest, search, or attempt to search anyone based solely upon the person's race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, cultural group, or any other identifiable group.

All departmental orders are informed and guided by this directive. Nothing in this order limits non-enforcement consensual contacts between officers and the public.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to inform officers that bias-based policing is prohibited by the department. Additionally, this order will assist officers in identifying key contexts in which bias may influence these actions, and emphasize the importance of the constitutional guidelines within which we operate.

III. DEFINITIONS

Most of the following terms appear in this policy statement. In any case, these terms appear in the larger public discourse about alleged biased enforcement behavior and in other orders. These definitions are intended to facilitate on-going discussion and analysis of our enforcement practices.

- A. Bias: Prejudice or partiality based on preconceived ideas, a person's upbringing, culture, experience, or education.
- B. Biased-based policing: Stopping, detaining, searching, or attempting to search, or using force against a person based upon his or her race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, cultural group, or any other identifiable group.
- C. Ethnicity: A cluster of characteristics that may include race but also cultural characteristics or traits that are shared by a group with a common experience or history.
- D. Gender: Unlike sex, a psychological classification based on cultural characteristics or traits.
- E. Probable cause: Specific facts and circumstances within an officer's knowledge that would lead a reasonable officer to believe that a specific offense has been or is being committed, and that the suspect has committed it. Probable cause will be determined by the courts reviewing the totality of the circumstances surrounding the arrest or search from an objective point of view.
- F. Race: A category of people of a particular decent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American descent. As distinct from ethnicity, race refers only to physical characteristics sufficiently distinctive to group people under a classification.
- G. Racial profiling: A law-enforcement initiated action based on an individual's race, ethnicity, or national origin rather than on the individual's behavior or on information identifying the individual as having engaged in criminal activity.
- H. Reasonable suspicion: Specific facts and circumstances that would lead a reasonable officer to believe criminal activity is afoot and the person to be detained is somehow involved. Reasonable suspicion will be determined by the courts reviewing the totality of the circumstances surrounding the detention from an objective point of view.
- I. Sex: A biological classification, male or female, based on physical and genetic characteristics.
- J. Stop: An investigative detention of a person for a brief period of time, based on reasonable suspicion.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. General responsibilities

1. Officers are prohibited from engaging in bias-based profiling or stopping, detaining, searching, arresting, or taking any enforcement action including seizure or forfeiture activities, against any person based solely on the person's race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, cultural group, or any other identifiable group. These characteristics, however, may form part of reasonable suspicion or probable cause when officers are seeking a suspect with one or more of these attributes. (TBP: 2.01)
2. Investigative detentions, traffic stops, arrests, searches, and property seizures by officers will be based on a standard of reasonable suspicion or probable cause in accordance with the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Officers must be able to articulate specific facts and circumstances that support reasonable suspicion or probable cause for investigative detentions, traffic stops, subject stops, arrests, nonconsensual searches, and property seizures. Except as provided in number 3 below, officers shall not consider race/ethnicity in establishing either reasonable suspicion or probable cause. Similarly, except as provided below, officers shall not consider race/ethnicity in deciding to initiate even those nonconsensual encounters that do not amount to legal detentions or to request consent to search.
3. Officers may take into account the reported race or ethnicity of a specific suspect or suspects based on trustworthy, locally relevant information that links a person or persons of a specific race/ethnicity to a particular unlawful incident(s). Race/ethnicity can never be used as the sole basis for probable cause or reasonable suspicion. Except as provided above, reasonable suspicion or probable cause shall form the basis for any enforcement actions or decisions. Individuals shall be subjected to stops, seizures, or detentions only upon reasonable suspicion that they have committed, are committing, or are about to commit an offense. Officers shall document the elements of reasonable suspicion and probable cause in appropriate reports.
4. Officers shall observe all constitutional safeguards and shall respect the constitutional rights of all persons.
 - a. As traffic stops furnish a primary source of bias-related complaints, officers shall have a firm understanding of the warrantless searches allowed by law, particularly the use of consent. How the officer disengages from a traffic stop may be crucial to a person's perception of fairness or discrimination.
 - b. Officers shall not use the refusal or lack of cooperation to justify a search of the person or vehicle or a prolonged detention once reasonable suspicion has been dispelled.
2. All personnel shall treat everyone with the same courtesy and respect that they would have others observe to department personnel. To this end, personnel are reminded that the exercise of courtesy and respect engenders a future willingness to cooperate with law enforcement.
 - a. Personnel shall facilitate an individual's access to other governmental services whenever possible, and shall actively provide referrals to other appropriate agencies.

- b. All personnel shall courteously accept, document, and forward to the Chief of Police any complaints made by an individual against the department. Further, officers shall provide information on the complaint's process and shall give copies of "How to Make a Complaint" when requested or when it is reasonable to assume.
3. When feasible, personnel shall offer explanations of the reasons for enforcement actions or other decisions that bear on the individual's well-being unless the explanation would undermine an investigation or jeopardize an officer's safety.
4. When concluding an encounter, personnel shall thank him or her for cooperating.
5. When feasible, all personnel shall identify themselves by name. When a person requests the information, personnel shall give their departmental identification number, name of the immediate supervisor, or any other reasonable information.
6. All personnel are accountable for their actions. Personnel shall justify their actions when required.

B. Supervisory responsibilities

1. Supervisors shall be held accountable for the observance of constitutional safeguards during the performance of their duties and those of their subordinates. Supervisors shall identify and correct instances of bias in the work of their subordinates.
2. Supervisors shall use the disciplinary mechanisms of the department to ensure compliance with this order and the constitutional requirements of law enforcement.
3. Supervisors shall be mindful that in accounting for the actions and performance of subordinates, supervisors are critical to maintaining community trust in law enforcement. Supervisors shall continually reinforce the ethic of impartial enforcement of the laws, and shall ensure that personnel, by their actions, maintain the community's trust in law enforcement.
4. Supervisors are reminded that biased enforcement of the law engenders not only mistrust of law enforcement, but increases safety risks to personnel as well as exposing the employee(s) and department to liability.
5. Supervisors shall be held accountable for repeated instances of biased enforcement of their subordinates if the supervisor knew, or should have known, of the subordinate's actions.
6. Supervisors shall ensure that all enforcement actions are duly documented per departmental policy. Supervisors shall ensure that all reports show adequate documentation of reasonable suspicion and probable cause, if applicable. Any enforcement action that begins as a consensual encounter will also have the circumstances of the initial encounter documented.
7. Supervisors shall facilitate the filing of any complaints about law-enforcement service.

8. Supervisors will randomly review at least three video tapes per officer (either body camera and/or in-car camera video) per quarter. For this policy a “quarter” is defined as a 3-month period of time. Supervisors are not required to watch each incident of an entire shift; however, reviewing the footage in a manner intended to gain an understanding of that officer’s performance and adherence to policy and law is required. Supervisors will document the random review of the video in their daily activity logs and any violations of policy or law will be addressed through the use of existing internal affairs policy. (TBP: 2.01)
9. Section 8 above applies only to first-line uniformed officers and their immediate supervisors. In the absence of a first-line supervisor this responsibility will move to the Chief of Police.

C. Disciplinary consequences

Actions prohibited by this order shall be cause for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

D. Training (TBP: 2.01)

Officers shall complete all training required by state law regarding bias- based profiling.

II. COMPLAINTS

- A. The department shall publish “How to Make a Complaint” folders and make them available at all city facilities and other public locations throughout the city. The department’s complaint process and its bias-based profiling policy will be posted on the department’s website. The information shall include, but is not limited to, the email, physical address, and telephone contact information for making a complaint against an employee. Whenever possible, the media will be used to inform the public of the department’s policy and complaint process.
- B. Complaints alleging incidents of bias-based profiling will be fully investigated as described under Policy 2.4.
- C. Complainants will be notified of the results of the investigations when the investigation is completed.

III. RECORD KEEPING

- A. The department will maintain all required records on traffic stops where a citation or warning is issued or where an arrest is made subsequent to a traffic stop.
- B. The information collected above will be reported to the city council as required by law.

C. The information will also be reported to TCOLE in the required format.

Traffic Stop Summary

Sour Lake Police Dept
(01/01/2020 - 12/31/2020)

Gender

Female: 477
Male: 851
Total: 1,328

Race or Ethnicity**Known Prior to Stop**

Yes: 21
No: 1,307
Total: 1,328

Race or Ethnicity

Black: 164
Asian/Pacific Islander: 33
White: 967
Hispanic/Latino: 164
Alaska Native/American Indian: 0
Total: 1,328

Reason for Stop

Violation Of Law: 20
Pre-existing Knowledge: 8
Moving Traffic Violation: 1,207
Vehicle Traffic Violation: 93
Total: 1,328

Search Conducted

Yes: 44
No: 1,284
Total: 1,328

Contraband Discovered

Yes: 21
No: 23
Total: 44

Reason for Search

Consent: 12
Contraband In Plain View: 1
Probable Cause: 24
Inventory: 3
Incident To Arrest: 4
Total: 44

Description of Contraband

Drugs: 18
Currency: 0
Weapons: 2
Alcohol: 3
Stolen Property: 0
Other: 0
Total: 23

Location of Stop

City Street: 92
US Highway: 0
County Road: 0
State Highway: 1,236
Private Property or Other: 0
Total: 1,328

Result of Stop

Verbal Warning: 0
Written Warning: 365
Citation: 949
Written Warning and Arrest: 2
Citation and Arrest: 12
Arrest: 0
Total: 1,328

Arrest Based On

Penal Code: 5
Traffic: 0
Ordinance: 0
Warrant: 9
Total: 14

Was Physical Force Resulting in Bodily Injury Used During Stop

Yes: 0
No: 1,328